

A. T. Parker  
High and Ashland East Side

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## BY DR. J. B. WILSON

one to five hundred. The suckers snap them right up. On the walls of the rich, all over this country, are

(Continued on page Four)

## THE BLUE GRASS BLADE.

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JAMES E. HUGHES ..... Editor and Publisher

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ADDRESS ALL communications to THE BLUE GRASS BLADE, P. O. Box 293, Lexington, Ky.

Be happy.

.....  
Fretting doesn't pay.

.....  
Cultivate cheerfulness.

.....  
All things are conquerable by man.

.....  
There is nothing that is impossible.

.....  
Improvement is the eternal order of the universe.

.....  
'Twas only an apple, but it busted our earthly paradise.

.....  
Although the Blade is still forging onward the work is slow.

.....  
If the many would but help the one the one could then help the many.

.....  
Be true and character.

.....  
When you think failure confronts you just change your viewpoint and success is bound to follow.

.....  
The curtain has been too tightly drawn over the future that no peephole can be found at any price.

.....  
Some people are born fools while others acquire it in college, and others have gold bricks thrust upon them.

.....  
We can best enjoy today because we cannot see into the morrow and find out for a certainty where the man with the scythe is hidden.

.....  
Did you ever stop to think that the world's great history would have been written in an altogether different vein had Adam married into a different family?

.....  
Raising wages will never settle the labor question. Bath rooms, button hole bouquets, reading rooms and rag time don't touch the right spot. Humanity demands something more.

.....  
Avarice is one of the most dangerous of human qualities because it is so subtle in its development. It grows as wealth and power increase until it finally dominates its victims completely.

.....  
Father bolts the stable door at night to keep his horse from harm, but allows his minor son to prowl where he pleases and for the same reason mother ties up a ten cent poodle dog but permits her daughter to flutter at random. Why is it?

.....  
The Rome Book for Christmas and New Year presents.

.....  
Dog Fennel in the Orient would make a suitable gift.

.....  
Your friends would appreciate a year's subscription to the Blade.

.....  
It is only the truly orthodox believer who strives to build a heaven for himself and a hell for other people. Time works many changes, however, and it does sometimes happen that the plans of men miscarry. Who knows but what the christian may fall into the very pit which he hath dug for his neighbor and the latter be exalted? Only when men have made personal enemies are they anxious to delegate the pleasant duty of inflicting punishment upon a so-called superior power. Such is the benevolence of orthodox religion.

.....  
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That the latest spiritualistic communication from Col. Robert G. Ingersoll must stand condemned as a man fantasy, a screaming farce, may be seen from this fact that it makes the dead Freethinker declare that in the "spirit world" he has seen the work of an "slightly hand." This is but another name for Jehovah and we know that he is not.

.....  
fanatic and the branding iron from the loving grasp of the benevolent bigot, while Superstition, that once did rule the world with anticlerical sway, can only shrink her impotent curses forth and flourish her foolish boycott at the giant, Reason's growing, expanding flame. The night of intellectual slavery has not completely vanished, however, but on the higher hills already flame the harbingers of a more glorious morn.

.....  
The Christian religion is either true or it is false. If it is true it will stand the severest test. If it is true it is indestructible as the law of gravitation. Then why do it ordained defenders take refuge behind long forgotten laws born of brutish ignorance and strife, with policemen's club, to close the mouth of honest criticism? "Thrice armed is he who hath his quarrel just," but the leaders of the armies of the Lord still skulk in the coward's cante and refuse to fight in the open even on compulsion.

.....  
Were we God almighty we would rather enjoy being lied about by malicious lollipops, than we sit secure in some celestial citadel, holding heaven, thunderbolts in our hands, it would not be safe to assert that we had been guilty of those unparalleled atrocities recorded in the Bible as having been committed by the emancipated Israelites in Palestine. None of that in ours.

.....  
The freedom some would give is a glorious thing and entitles them to the eternal gratitude of the race. As with a gift horse we are supposed not to question it, no matter how much it hurts. It is a case of taking the good the gods provide and then get to holding your peace. Look what happened to Jesus for questioning the supernal wisdom of the money changers of Jerusalem.

.....  
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.....  
Your friends would appreciate a year's subscription to the Blade.

.....  
One of the saddest sights on earth  
Is a person with nothing to do;  
He has no joy and he has no mirth—  
Don't let that person be you.

.....  
Fools, will you not help the Blade in the fulfillment of its mission to break the foolish idols of religion?

.....  
The undertaking is not a popular move and the work of improvement has invariably fallen upon a few. It is our great aim to hurl the unclean gods of orthodoxy from their pedestals in the public pathway to enable men to dig for wisdom on their own behoof; to light the pathway of the world's high destiny with the flame from the torch of reason; to play ohn the Baptist to a greater to come after. Every triumph wrought in science has been the work of men who were dissatisfied with the world's condition, who had set deliberately to work to better them. This is our mission, our hope and our work. Will you not help us? You can do it by increasing our circulation.

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

.....  
Good reading always cultivates the mind and such cultivation is always conducive to intellectual strength. Persons should be as careful in selecting the books they read as they are in selecting their personal companions. Good books make excellent companions. They never tire of your company and they have useful information to bestow.

.....  
Now, readers, the holiday season is at hand, and while we, as Freethinkers, care nothing for the religious barmecides that have grown around and about the decadence of the old year and the birth of the new, yet we have more or less conformed to the custom of making and giving presents to our friends at this season of the year. If you are thinking of what to send or give away as a token of the season we beg to call your attention to the several books we have on hand which could be used to a splendid advantage for such a purpose.

.....  
First, there is the Rome Book, by Dr. J. B. Wilson, descriptive of his trip to the Rome Congress of Freethinkers and the doings of that distinguished body. For a book of travel and personal experience abroad, to say nothing of its real historic value pertaining to religion and its growth on the European continent, is without a peer. This book will be sent to any address for \$1.15.

.....  
Besides the Rome Book we have several copies of the book written by our late editor, C. C. Moore, namely, "Dog Fennel in the Orient," being an account of his experiences abroad while on a voyage to the Holy Lands and tells what he saw and experienced en route. This book is interesting and instructive and can be had, sent to any address, for \$1.15.

.....  
If you would like to have one of these books sent to a friend as a seasonable present, send in your orders now and we will mail them out in ample time for a seasonable delivery.

.....  
While all this talk is going on about expanding the currency too many of us are apt to complain of a contraction. Compared with prices years ago it is amazing how little a dollar will buy. Compared with wages years ago the laborer is not getting much more while everything is ascending to a point far beyond his reach. The next thing he will need is an economic Jacob's ladder.

### WHY WE MUST REFORM MEN.

.....  
Our admired editor of the Blade surprises us by saying "men may preach reform and teach reform until nightmare plows corn and United States Senators earn their salaries, but we must have a reform of men before we can have any other reform." True a stream cannot be purer than the fountains from it flows, or is it possible for the common chap to get an even exchange of happiness for their misery so long as ignorance enough exists to tolerate the perpetuation of the enormous parasites of orthodox mythology? Nations, decay and class distinction will inevitably govern conditions.

.....  
Political reform cannot exist handicapped and checkmated by ignorant credulity perpetually paralyzing the intellect with mental intoxication of faith zeal, liquor intoxicants and zealous faith produces like results, only the former deprives the brain of reason temporarily while the latter is perpetual.

.....  
We consider Mr. Hughes one of our ablest reformers and want to know why he opens such a question and leaves it without remedy, thus afflicting us with "nightmare" thinking how foolishly we have been trying to bring about a reform for 2,000 years without "first reforming men" Mr. Hughes virtually admits failure thus far which we also admit but his new remedy we want to learn.

.....  
Up to 1858 parents took care of their children taught them noble precepts at home, while now they have become the wards of public schools learning folly fashion and fiction, drifting fast as Ingersoll says of Spain and Italy to a tambourine monkey, fandangos and a ball fight.

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With all these long standing inherited customs the frivolity of woman, the increasing crimes of men, the giddiness of the youths, what will his answer be?

.....  
GEO. LEESON.

.....  
The principal feature in the foregoing communication, admittedly one of the strongest that has reached our office since we assumed charge of this paper, is to be found in the fact that it accepts our statement as being true, confesses surprise that we have given utterance thereto, but naively asks us to suggest a remedy for the evils of which we complain. Nor is the question without force and interest. Could a satisfactory answer be found the world's troubles would be at an end and the millennium would be upon us in all its force, power and glory. For centuries men have delved into science and philosophy, digging to hitherto unknown depths to unearth the precious gem, but it has eluded their grasp, or they have failed to reach it. To properly answer the question we would be compelled to overhaul our entire political and religious systems and from out the debris evolve new systems that would be acceptable to all men and encourage them to labor for their realization. From the days of Martin Luther down to the present various reformers have offered theories, some good, some bad, some indifferent, but the natural perversion of the human mind has held men aloof until the world's woes were little more than unreal.

.....  
Once let us understand that the existence of the race is but an unimportant incident in the history of the universe, that we are but mere infusoria born of heat and moisture, perishing when the moisture dries up or the heat becomes greater or less. Let us admit that if man had never appeared the mountains would have reared their rugged crests to meet the glory of the unrisen sun, the purple mists would still hover in the valleys, the rivers rolled onward to the sea and the tides ebb and flowed, that not a star would have fallen from the overhanging firmament nor a planet hesitate in its course, that there would not have been a drop of water or a grain of sand more or less, had man never been. Realizing and admitting this we strike a base or a starting point and we are then forced to the conclusion that all political and religious forms are more or less a curse as they are permitted to dominate our social life are man made, that is, self-inflicted. Then the remedy lies in self and it is self that must assume the work of redemption, or salvation, through honest effort at improvement. If man created the political system that gives unnecessary wealth to the sleeper and not enough to the worker to sustain his strength, then man can uncreate it. The power to undo lies in the same medium that had the power to do. If man created that religious system which dogmatizes about the deity, so-called, constantly pointing the way to some impossible celestial city where the "pore mizzible wurm" shall become an imperishable butterfly flitting from flower to flower, doing absolutely nothing of importance through all eternity, a system that imagines deity made heaven for a few idiot harpers and hell for a host of hoodlums, then man can uncreate it and the sooner the better.

.....  
To accomplish this, however, what is needed? Evidently a change in the character and nature of men. Then, before we can obtain reformation in systems WE MUST HAVE A REFORM OF MEN. Here is the keynote, the secret of it all. He who conquers himself has conquered the universe of which he is the center. He who improves himself has improved so much of that universe. Before he can ever expect to reform others he must first reform himself. He must crave useful knowledge, seek it and find it, and finding it, assimilate and apply it. He must learn that reform in religion cannot come through inactivity and prayer, but by activity and labor. He must learn that political freedom never has been won by continually marching under the "party banner" and voting the same old way generation after generation, but that citizenship is above party, common honesty above political professions, humanity above god.

.....  
Our correspondent struck the correct vein when he said, "a stream cannot be purer than the foundations from which it flows" and so believing we must work to purify the foundation and the stream will grow purer and clearer. If individual man is the real foundation of the present political, industrial and religious systems then any change, mean-

.....  
ing or bringing improvement, must come from him. Governments are what the people under it make it. When governments run counter to the will of the people revolutions follow. The same ends can be reached by peaceful evolution and the result is more stable, more permanent. As the work of the world's salvation rests upon those who have wrought existing conditions making that salvation necessary, we repeat:

.....  
Men may preach reform and teach reform until nightmare plows corn and United States Senators earn their salaries, but we must have a reform of men before we can have any other reform.

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### DENSE, DARK AND IGNORANT.

.....  
The mendacity and unbelief obstinacy of the average representative of Christ, when debating with a septic, although a matter of common knowledge, was never more clearly demonstrated than in the published report of the Snow-Wilkinson debate as the same reaches us through the columns of the Arkansas Traveler. The Blade has long doubted the wisdom of disputing with little men anent points of doctrine or to wrangle with dogmatists concerning their conception of the deity and the universe, but to debate with a religious nonentity like Wilkinson is more foolish than trying to light the fire with kerosene and then—going to join the angels.

.....  
Wilkinson quarrels with science because it is not perfect and damns all music because of an occasional discord. He rejects natural history because it is a world of truth there are some silly fables invented by religious Willies who knew no better and left the race to evolve better and nobler theories. Probably he would banish the sun because of its spots and declare love a vice because hemmed in by passion. It is evident that he knows nothing of the comic universe, gazes upon the world through tinted glasses over the lens of which the spider of orthodoxy hath woven its web to darken the brightness of intellectual light. It were enough that Snow assumed his quivering diaphragm against the face of nature, left him a mere mental microbe, a doodle-bug in the realm of theology. Of course Wilkinson has not been convinced, neither has Snow been converted to his beliefs, but the self-styled representative of J. C. will be ready for another tourney as soon as there is enough long green in sight.

.....  
Regarding Wilkinson's mentality but little need be said. He furnishes all the evidence that is necessary and it is so conclusive that comment upon it is unnecessary. Read:

.....  
Geology teaches that life first appeared in its highest forms and degenerated until it became extinct. Our forefathers were not first savages. All history is to the contrary. There are just as savage races now as there ever were.

.....  
In giving utterance to such a statement Wilkinson may not be deemed a liar, but he is powerful reckless with the truth. The fossil fauna so far known to geology reveals the fact that the Eozoan was among the earliest forms of animal life and is found only in the tertiary strata. Man does not appear in any form until the Diluvian deposits although it is inferred that he might have been extant in the earlier periods of the Paleozoic ages. In any event geology has demonstrated that there was a period when even vegetable life did not exist upon this planet and the vegetable preceded the animal kingdom. Nature did not bring forth animal life until conditions were such that animal life could subsist. These were crude beginnings and from them have evolved the full and perfect man as we see him today. Geology teaches, indisputably and undeniably, that the development of the animal species, including man, has been one long and continual chain of constant progression. There have been a few ups and downs but the general tendency has been upward. Wilkinsons degrades the race by having it degenerate and misrepresents geology in his effort to sustain a tottering religious creed. Geology and chemistry combined have successfully demonstrated the origin of life and zoology, aided by natural history has pointed out the successive stages of that order of development.

.....  
When we approach the method of reasoning indulged in by Wilkinson we are prone to use a quotation from the immortal Bard of Avon, and say, "the fool hath committed to his memory an army of good words" but his use of them betrays a pitiful misunderstanding thereof. Let us read again. He says:

.....  
"Faith requires testimony. It is a conviction forced upon us by careful and diligent investigation of incontrovertible testimony. Opinion formulates into dogma and refuses to investigate or accept what conflicts with it."

.....  
On the contrary faith becomes necessary where there is a lack of convincing testimony or in its absence altogether. Of course a great deal depends upon the subject with which that faith is connected. We have a boy, a fine, healthy fellow. We have faith that he will reach maturity. This faith is built upon the fact that other boys who were fine, healthy fellows have reached maturity and under favorable conditions our boy ought to do the same. I am told there is a god. I have never seen one nor have I met any person who has. I have met and conversed with people who claim to know something about him but putting them altogether I find that belief in such a being is an impossibility. Then I am told that I must believe in him by faith. But what fact have I to build my faith upon? Absolutely none. In the end I am compelled to guess and every physical fact in the universe being against such a belief I am compelled to guess that





# THE REIGN OF KING HUMBUG

(Continued from page One)

hung these gaudy daws. The gulls wouldn't think of paying an American artist twenty-five dollars for a really good picture.

## Occult Humbuggery.

In no other way is the love of humbuggery more manifest than in the general belief that particular persons are gifted with a knowledge of the future and are able to peer into it.

Look at all the millions of people running to preachers and priests, mediums, and fortune tellers, in order to obtain information of the future.

All classes alike are humbugged by this trinity of tricksters—the only difference between whom is, that the preacher is a little more fashionable than the other two.

At least \$100,000,000 are spent yearly for advertisement in our Sunday papers by preachers, psychologists, seers, mediums, Christian scientists, fortune-tellers and healers of many descriptions. They don't advertise for nothing. They expect to get all back, and as much more. From whom do they get it? Why from the gullible—from the women principally—mistaken as well as servile.

The pity of it is that the poor working girl should be made one of the principle victims of this sacred charity. These poor creatures, after doing the bulk of the world's housework, and a large part of its factory work must be swindled out of their meager earnings to support preachers and priests in big churches and grand cathedrals.

The preacher and priest get their first, and over the years become easy victims for the medium and the faith healer. It ought to be plain to any one that the soil is prepared first by the church, the Sunday School and the parochial school, for all this rank growth of superstition and humbuggery, that blossoms out in Christian Science, Faith Healing, Spirit Mediumship, Palmistry, Fortune Telling, and what not.

When the preacher and priest fall into the hands of the medium, they turn to the psychiatrist and the faith healer. It ought to be plain to any one that the soil is prepared first by the church, the Sunday School and the parochial school, for all this rank growth of superstition and humbuggery, that blossoms out in Christian Science, Faith Healing, Spirit Mediumship, Palmistry, Fortune Telling, and what not.

Thousands of people of all classes believe that Anna Eva Fay possesses some mysterious occult power. They cannot see, as fast as her old tricks, which, at the time, were regarded as being occult, are discovered and exposed, to her.

Any kind—spiritual, occult or sleight-of-hand, but is simple enough when you know how to do it.

It is the love of mystery which attracts, and which love is perpetuated by the preacher and priest, by instilling it in the mind of the child, by teaching it the mysticism of the Bible—that a snake talked to Eve—that Balaam's ass cursed in Hebrew; that Jonah held a three-day prayer meeting in a whale's belly; that the witch of Endor called up the spirit of Samuel, and a multitude of such mellow moonshine.

The child is next inoculated with the New Testament virus. It is sited with all the legends of the mysterious Jesus, who, in a mysterious way, it is said, was in a mysterious way (as all men do, who don't work), performed a lot of mysterious tricks, none of which were as slick as those of Eva Ann (except possibly, his trick of driving the devil out of a sick man into the bosom of Galilee) and who died in a mysterious way. When people can be made to believe such things they can be made to believe anything.

It is any wonder that there are so many gullible fools in the world where the mind of youth in its impressionable period, is confounded with mystery, and educated and graduated in the school of gullibility.

Let me tell you right here, that the very beginning of all reform, is that of throwing a safe guard around the mind of the child; protecting it from the mysticism of the preacher and priest, and training it to reason for itself, so that it may grow up free to perform its natural functions.

No child can be started right on faith, prayer, credulity and mysticism. If he turns out alright, it is due to none of these, but to the good in human nature, and to environment and secular influence.

Spiritualism, Christian Science and Theosophy are all off-shoots of the Christian mysticism—all nubbins from the same stock.

Spiritualism has its "Big Injuns" who come and talk "heep humbuggery." Christian Science well explains itself in the absurdity of its name. Christianity is a superstition, a mysticism. Science deals only in facts that are demonstrable in nature. Therefore Christianity can not bear a relation to science, that honesty to a horse thief. There is about as much sense in the term Christian Science as in a torrid winter, a riot.

ous peace, a cheerful agony, a tempestuous calm, a soothing sorrow, a holy heat, and a subtle cold, and all of them. It is chiefly distinguished from the others, by its being just a little bit more aristocratic. The reason that it is more aristocratic, is because it is more mysterious and incomprehensible. Theosophy is what I call an erratic, aesthetic Asiatism.

All three are alike in this one respect—they start off weaving the beautiful and the good, with the moral and the true; then presently they rise above the earth and soar heavenward, and metamorphose in metaphysical moonshine. There all at once, they get lost—they don't know where they are at. They skidoo.

Theosophy always reminds me of the sky rocket. It springs heavenward in a golden column of words, pierces the mystic ether, and, as a meteoric comet, it leaves a beautiful scintillating star, light up the whole heavens, then all at once it takes a sudden drop, flickers into nothingness, and all is as dark as before.

Understand me, I do not mean that there is no good, truth or wisdom in either of these mysticisms. I recognize them as simply an expression of the dissatisfaction with the Christian mysticism, and as a proper step toward something grander and higher.

The spiritual philosophy is beautiful and I wish it were true. Christian Science is an improvement on Christianity. While its principles, which are as old as the world, tend in some cases, to ally physical diseases, at the same time, they have a dangerous tendency to create mental and intellectual diseases. It is not good to think too much of yourself. There are a thousand other things more important. Christian Science unfortunately for itself has run into Christianity, and therefore into dogmatism. Theosophy has been wise enough to avoid this.

But all these people are freethinking and superior people, and I like them. The great trouble with them is that they start out with such beautiful arguments and get lost so quick. Before they are in a pitch darkness, illuminated only with Jack-o'-lanterns.

My friends, the safest thing for you to do, if you wouldn't be humbugged by belief, is to stick close to Nature. Nature does not follow every fangled mysticism off. "Show me," should always be your motto.

## Medical Humbuggery.

My friends, you no doubt have seen the practice of medicine. It would prove an exception in human nature; but I maintain that there is far less of it, among ethical physicians, than in any other profession.

Physicians are selfish and mercenary like every one else; and economic circumstances drive many of them to compete with druggists, lawyers, clerks, jack hatched, nice old ladies and gentlemen everywhere, who have forgotten more than the doctor ever knew; and they have to play, holy man, prayers and blessings of the clergy. At Xavier, on a certain Sunday of every March, the throats of all the children are blessed, which knocks out all the doctors' profits on the diphtheria trade. So you see what they have to compete with, and is it any wonder sometimes that they fight the devil with his own fire?

A great many of you may not know that medical science is almost altogether an achievement of the last hundred years. Previous to that it was blended with Christian humbuggery—the church permitting no one to build on the broad and solid foundations laid down by Hippocrates.

Just as the church dictated what should be law, art, science, drama and music, just so it laid its prescription on medicine. The church was in the prayer, charm, faith healing and miracle business; and it wouldn't stand for any truthful or scientific opposition, as it couldn't afford it. Consequently the humbuggery in medicine, is chiefly the transmitted humbuggery of the church.

Only as medical science became free from ecclesiastical and mystical hindrances, did it begin to develop, and accomplish a work which has won the respect and gratitude of every lover of progress, truth and health.

Today physicians are more open to knowledge and less susceptible to mysticism than any other professional class. I don't deny that the practice of medicine is faulty. It has spent

too much time on minerals, and too little in studying human nature, suggestion, and the social and mental causes of health and disease.

Of course it has made and makes many mistakes. The larger part of it is pure experimentation, but this is the only method of obtaining knowledge, he may who ever makes mistakes seldom makes anything else.

The difference between doctors and preachers and faith healers is—that the doctors have their faces turned toward science, while the apostle-chasers have theirs turned toward superstition.

At this very moment, when thousands of clergymen all over the world have their faces turned upward, looking into vacancy, thousands of physicians are toiling in their laboratories, looking downward into their microscopes, endeavoring to gain some knowledge that will add to the health, happiness and well being of the people. They are not hunting for spirits, or astral bodies, but for microbes and facts. And many of these investigators are penniless and starving and working without hope of reward here or hereafter.

The doctor comes nearest being the ideal socialist than any other man—the more so than the professing socialist himself. He is the only man in the community who is at the service of his fellow man, night and day, and without charge, if the case be one of worthy charity, and no one is more often unrewarded and imposed upon than he.

For fifteen hundred years, doctors, like actors, poets and astronomers were regarded as moral outcasts. They were denounced as heretics from all the pulpits of Europe.

"Better die with Christ than be healed by an infidel," said St. Thomas Aquinas, just as Mrs. Eddy is edifying the world today.

Physicians were called sorcerers, magicians and atheists, and they endured all the persecutions of the heretics. Why, it has only been about one hundred and fifty years since they were permitted to dissect the human body. The reason for this was, that the exercise of curing by faith, miracle and prayer was the source of the greatest income of the church, and therefore it blocked all approach to the truth, because the truth would put an end to its graft.

Finally, Vesalius, a courageous Italian physician and founder of the Science of Anatomy, succeeded in exposing the human body from head to toe. He proclaimed that there was no such thing as a "resurrection bone," and that the skull was a mere covering for the brain.

With the woman, causing the clergy to drop these two professions and cardinal doctrines of the church. And ever since that day, inch by inch, the clergy has had to yield its humbuggery to the truth of the discoveries of medicine.

Today the insane are not treated as being possessed of devils, and cruelly tortured, but with love and kindness. The Jesuits of Vienna, in 1683, boasted that they had cast out 12,652 devils. There was one city, I remember, that of the number of devils, cast out, by torture, all over Europe.

Pestilences are no longer treated by prayer but with disinfection and isolation, which have practically abolished the yellow fever, small pox and cholera. Acid and corrosive sublimate have taken the place of faith and supplication.

The typhoid mortality has been reduced from 75 to 15 to the hundred, a gain of 60, and what conqueror in the all world's broad field of faith, ever won such a victory?

The dread diphtheria is almost a thing of the past, thanks to horse serum instead of holy water. Think of the number of devils, cast out, by torture, all over Europe.

Under the Roentgen ray, flesh becomes as glass, and foreign bodies are discovered and removed; while the achievements of general surgery and dentistry are astounding.

The discovery of chloroform ushered in the happy time when under the knife, there shall be no more pain. "If the United States had done nothing else but discover chloroform," said a great British scientist, "it would deserve the lasting gratitude of the universe." Still, even in the nineteenth century, chloroform and cocaine were declared to be works of the devil by those breeders of all humbuggery, the ecclesiastics and faith healers. If there has ever been a class, have been afflicted with chronic contamination of the intellect, it has certainly been these.

I have given these few, of the many achievements of modern science, that they may stand out in bold contrast with the achievements of mysticism and faith.

As to advice, I am quick and incompetent, I admit them by the thousand. As to advertisers, I want to be fair, and will say that I believe that some of them are able and conscientious men, and often give the money's

worth. They believe that they have just as much right to advertise as merchants, evangelists, or anybody else, and if they are honest, I have no quarrel with them.

I admit that medical science progresses only by experimentation; that if all the humbuggery who take more of the dollar than the cure; the rate of human prolonging the disease for the sake of the fee. I recognize that many of such faults are caused by economic pressure; still no class does as much free work as the medical fraternity; none have done so much for human prolongation of life; none have done so much to dispel mysticisms and advance mankind; none have done so much to promote science and the progress of the world.

Next we came to the great humbug of all.

The Humbug of the Church.

Although I have already pretty well pointed out the humbug in this nature still, it would take a volume to complete it.

Religion based upon morals, science, truth, love and progress, is not only a good thing, but a necessity. In fact there is no other religion.

A religion founded upon miracles, prayer and superstition, is not a good thing, but, in its very nature, is a humbug.

Now, is there anything in all the world so strange, as that two-thirds of all human energy, physical and intellectual, has been expended in perpetuating the Christian superstition? One of the principle reasons that so many people adhere to the Christian faith is because they are ignorant of its inception into the government of the Council of Nice, and the manner in which the Bible was compiled, and of how the inspiration of the Holy Spirit was a matter of belief, says St. Thomas Aquinas, just as Mrs. Eddy is edifying the world today.

The reason mankind has been blind to this, is due to the wonder, faith, fear and obedience practiced on the mind of the child. These have been so thoroughly instilled into the human mind that they are hereditary. Why, then, or the human nose, or the complexion, or any racial type. There is no other humbuggery in the world so strongly arrayed against right reasoning.

Why, just think of it! Christians make a great deal of man's sinfulness, and say that his father was a sinner; and here is one of the strangest phases of human credulity and intellectual inconsistency in all the world. There is not one man among the millions who believe that this event took place in Joseph's family, who could be made to believe for one moment that it happened in his own.

They believe all the miracles that Jesus is said to have performed, that he was a sinner, that he died even after resurrection had set in. They believe he fed a multitude on two loaves and three fishes; that he cured insanity by driving out devils; that he cured some deaf from the road, mixed with a little divine saliva, rubbed it on a man's eyes, and cured him of blindness, and all this humbuggery is the foundation of the spiritual Christianity and faith.

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Manifestations of this holy humbuggery are all around us. We observe governors of states appointing day after day, to persuade God to end a drought; and also a day of thanks to the author and creator of all, omitting of course, the storms, earthquakes, fires, famines, pestilences, sorrows, griefs, headaches and losses, which in his kind Providence, he so graciously sends us.

We observe the church encroaching upon the state in every way it can, and in defiance of the constitution. It has its salaried clergies in legislative bodies, and in the army and navy. It evades taxation, and is the greatest class privileged institution in the country; yet it poses as the exponent of justice, truth, honor and good citizenship.

Forty years ago, the ground on which the First Presbyterian church stands down on Fourth street, was worth about \$2,000. A fifty thousand building was erected on it. It has since been sold to enhance its value. Surrounding improvements have made this ground worth today a half million. Not one cent of taxes have ever been paid on it. Over three billion dollars worth of stock property in this country is untaxed, and still somehow, the church manages to keep the majority of people humbugged into the belief, that it is the root of justice and sanctity, and the only good to the consciences of men.

Why, the very first step toward honesty, is to pay your own way to be square with your fellow man.

One of the greatest humbugs in the church is its missionary propaganda, in which Protestants and Catholics talk bad about each other to the faithful; each telling that the other is false; which is as near the truth, perhaps as they ever get. There are twice as many heathens now as there was 100 years ago. At the present rate of heathen increase, and Christian conversion, when will every tongue confess, and every knee bow? The chief humbuggery, however, consists in trying to fit the heathen for a social equal in Paradise, and refusing to mix with him here.

Missionaries, just now, are causing nearly all the devilment and revolutionary outbreaks among heathen nations. The only good thing about missionary work so far as I can see, is, that it is the means of getting a lot of cranks and fanatics out of this country.

I haven't time to go into the humbug of salvation, damnation, the atonement, as a lot more of the dogmas, dreams, fictions and fallacies, by which the church has succeeded in bamboozling the whole world, I will leave for the humbuggery of revivals.

You all have all heard of "waves of religion" sweeping over the country. That is one of its peculiarities. It goes in waves. You never heard of a wave of intelligence or common sense sweeping the country, did you?

The country could not be happy with these humbugs of religion. A mediocre preacher fails to make any hit in the pulpit, by doing badly what others do well.

He turns to sensationalism for relief. He preaches blood and fire and huris damnation around him in solid church like brick bats. He shrieks silly lies, perverts facts to suit his own ends; prances, froths, howls, stamps and whacks his pulpit till the top splits. Nothing is too extravagant or dishonest for utterance. It is all rant, noise, nonsense, but it stuns the gulls, and they swear by it as to heaven born eloquence.

The country is speckled all over with these taboos of bigotry who turn their tabernacles into monkey houses. Call them Tamagoe, San Jose, Commander Booth, Dowie, Volney, whatever else you will, but remember always that their name is Humbug.

The Political Humbug. Lincoln declared that, "Politics, as a trade, is a perversion and leaves all dishonest." Some one else has said, "Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few."

Since parties seem to be a necessity, as long as we have them, we will have them. It is the duty of every man to be a politician, if he wouldn't be humbugged. It must be plain to all that there is as much human deceit, bigotry and credulity in politics as in the pulpit. Millions believe that they never change. They can't be changed.

Politics, as well as religion, demonstrate that people generally don't want to know the truth. If a man is a staunch Republican, he won't listen to anything that would bear anything reflecting on his party—the same with the Democrat, no matter if his party be as rotten as Denmark.

The Catholic is offended at once if you tell him that the truth about the church and religion; but it is pleasant enough to hear other religions denounced. The Methodist and Presbyterian don't want the truth told about their churches; but it is alright to give the truth about the Jews and the Jews.

Why is this phase of bigotry and prejudice so universal in mankind, for certainly men naturally incline to investigation and truth. It is chiefly due, I say, to the misdirection of the mind of the child in the start.

There is this difference between a politician and a statesman—the politician thinks of the next election; the statesman thinks of the next generation. If there is a country in the world, at the present time, that has a poverty of statesmen, it is the United States.

The one great aim seems to be to control elections and perpetuate plutocrats in power. The popular vote determines nothing. It is all a humbug. Money makes masters. Every election is bought. The vote of the ignorant, vicious and corrupt determines majorities.

We see both parties going after the Ghetto and the Negro. We see parties buying up the Catholic church and the Methodist church, and we see great corporations buying up both parties. Still the gulls are proud of their parties. Still they remain dyed-in-the-wool, unwavering Republicans.

At the last election in New York Hearst was defeated by a proclamation from Dick Crocker, the ex-boss and Tammany thief. The mere opinion of this public plunderer, turned the heads of thousands. Crocker, according to Hearst's defeat, said "God did it," which if true, shows that even God Almighty can be guided, for he defeated the best man in the country by a better evidence than this to show how easily men can be humbugged, and how thick the gulls roost?

Labor parties are among the worst of the humbugged. They howl about not having any money in Congress, then, when the opportunity comes to them to vote for a labor candidate, they won't do it. There's plenty of humbug of the same kind in all the reform parties. Two out of three reformers need a reform. There's plenty of humbug to be found in all shades of Liberalism. Liberals are not always liberal. The humbuggery in municipal government has been so thoroughly ingrained of late, that I will not attempt it here. Suffice it to say that the professors of religion and morals, and the arbiters of respectability in society, for years, have sustained and supported in office in this city, a gang of public plunderers, whom they would not invite into their own homes, or be seen with under a dark alley.

Summary. Let it be understood that in presenting this subject, my object has not been to offend any one, but to show, by strong contrast and in plain speech, a phase of human nature which is universal, and which is not taken into account as much as it should be. I use the good in the law, press, art, drama, medicine, religion and in all things.

Men's beliefs and creeds seldom make them good. Men are good because of the good in human nature, and because of breeding, climate and environment. What I have aimed to show is, that credulity and humbuggery have such a dominating influence, even in the great affairs of life, that they obstruct right reasoning, and make the march of progress painful and slow.

The question we are all up against now is, "What is the remedy?" The clergy say: "Just be guided by the law, which may occur the next year, or in 10,000 years. The same time between drinks would create a beautiful thirst. Even Stanley Bowdell, the distinguished young gentleman who spoke at your last meeting, has written a pamphlet, in which he proves to his own satisfaction that the only solution to all these human difficulties is the "second coming of the Lord."

Oh, Lord! Oh Lord! T. L. Stoddard says: "Respect the law and maintain order." The socialist, single taxer, prohibitionist and other small party folks, have their well known views.

My opinion is that there is no remedy. Credulity is a fixed principle in human nature; and nature is not in the habit of changing her principles to accommodate any creed, society or person.

The best that can be done is only to modify it. We can only advance along any line, little by little. Each step forward, makes the next more easy. Evolve and revolute is nature's way and there is no other. The world advances only by intellectual fighting and physical fighting.

Educationally, I would propose introducing in the school curriculum the study of economics and politics. If he boy is not trained in politics he is not qualified to enter politics. A reason for this is, that the boy is not trained in politics he is not qualified to enter politics. A reason for this is, that the boy is not trained in politics he is not qualified to enter politics.

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Introduce the study of political methods in the schools, and qualify youth for the ballot. Every voter in my opinion, should be a politician; then, politician need not be a humbug. Every politician, would find more profit in honesty. Each being fond of the other's tricks, they couldn't fool each other. I propose also the initiative and referendum, which if universally adopted will transform the world. But above all, I propose that the state shall take charge of the minds of the child—that it shall be taken out of the hands of the preacher and priest; that its education shall be based on nature and science; that it shall be trained in right reasoning, right from the start, and that the indelible need of wonder, fear, falsehood, myth, miracle and moonshine shall not be "canned upon the infant brain."

I would also propose a reformation of the clergy, and the humbuggery of Christianity. The clergy as a rule are good, able and conscientious men, and they are worth saving. All that is the matter with them is, the fact that in their brains, and they can't help it.

If every church was like this church, open and free to all discussion; and if every preacher was as the preacher of this church, hospitable to all thought, the greatest step forward to the world, I can imagine, would be taken. Not because the people of this church are better morally than the people of other churches; not because its pastor is better than other clergies; but because the church is free; and its pastor is free; and its pastor is free.

Freedom is Everything.

Send your friends a Christmas of New Years' present in the A Trip to Rome.